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The O'Pears

Haliburton County Folk Society kicks off its spring season with contemporary folk trio. See page 2

Imagining spring

Local creative writers reflect on life in the Highlands. See page 14

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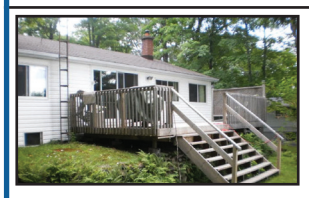

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Folk Society to host The O'Pears in Minden

NATE SMELLE
County Life Staff

The Haliburton County Folk Society is all set to kick off its spring music season on Saturday, April 7 with a special performance by The O'Pears. Based out of Toronto, this contemporary folk trio intertwines spirit-stirring stories with the timeless sound of folk music. The band's three singers/songwriters – Lydia Persaud, Jill Harris and Meg Contini – met 10 years ago when they began singing together in another band. After noticing that their musical interests and song writing styles were similar, they decided to start their own group. Harris said it was from this shared love of music that The O'Pears were born.

"We have a common passion for the human voice and the emotion it can convey," said Harris.

"Not only does music connect us to others, but it also helps us connect more to ourselves. Music has been a huge part of our happiest moments and has aided us through difficult times."

This past January, she said The O'Pears took time to work on some of their new material together while

see TRIO page 3

CountyLife

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Canadian Tire *
Haliburton Foodland*
Haliburton Highland Real Estate
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For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

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Trio brings harmonies to the Highlands

from page 2

on a writing retreat. Their first time collaborating on songs together from scratch, Harris described the experience as both "fun and exciting." At the end of the month, the band is heading into the studio to record a full-length winter-themed album, which she said they expect to release this November. With all three women in the band writing songs, Harris indicated that the creative process is different with every song.

"Sometimes we come in with a skeleton of an idea and we build on it together," she said.

"Other times a song is nearly complete, and we just arrange it and create harmony."

Projecting harmonies akin to those found in the music of Crosby, Stills, and Nash, their music is said to turn any venue into a warm and intimate house concert. According to Harris, the bandmates share a love of folk music as a storytelling genre. She said they have been deeply inspired by listening to and appreciating the stories told by classic folk artists and new artists alike.

"Folk music gives activists a platform to speak honestly about their beliefs, and express to others to do so too," Harris said.

"We feel honoured that we get to share our stories as young women living in an era of social change and growth, with people all over Canada."

The O'Pears will take the stage at the Minden United Church on Saturday, April 7, and the show will begin at 7:30 p.m. Also performing on this night are special guests, Tomorrow Never Knows. Seating is limited, so those wishing to ensure their spot in the audience are advised to pick up tickets ahead of time. Tickets are available for purchase at Organic Times in Minden, The Source in Haliburton, and online at www.haliburtonfolk.com.

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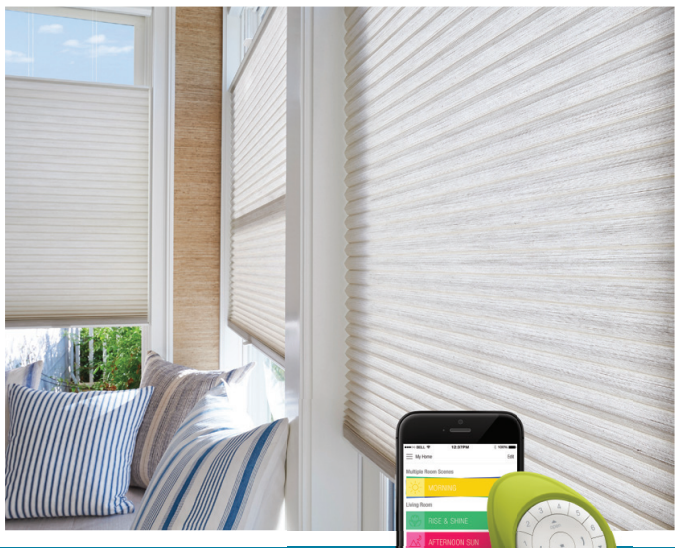

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A week with wolves

A woman takes a photo of the resident wolves at the Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve during the March break week on Wednesday, March 14. The Forest had hundreds come to the outdoor facility, which offered the showcase of the resident wolves and related March break programming./ DARREN LUM Staff

A wolf steps over a log at the Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve during the March break week on Wednesday, March 14.

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Making It exhibit celebrates endurance, determination

LAURIE JONES
Special to *County Life*

This spring, Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre presents "Making It," an exhibition by Sophie Creelman, Tiffany Howe and Noelia Marziali from March 31 until May 20.

The career path of an artist is not a walk in the park. As a working artist myself, I have lived through confusing times when the need to be admired and gain approval had me skittering off in all directions, seeking compromise and curbing my enthusiasm until I felt like giving up my artistic ambitions. But I am still at it.

Giving up is the easiest thing in the world, making it through the middle to the end is quite another story. It is a victory. Making It is an exhibition about not giving up. And in its broadest sense it is about following the relentless urge to create, believing in oneself and pressing on to "make it" as an artist.

Sophie Creelman, Tiffany Howe and Noelia Marziali's biographies trace a trail of small shows in small venues, group shows and studio tours. All three have received public recognition as emerging artists (Noelia and Tiffany were named emerging artists of the Year in 2008 and 2010 respectively by Arts Council Haliburton Highlands; in 2018 Sophie was invited as an Emerging Artist to The Artist Project, a contemporary art fair in Toronto). Kudos to all three local artists!

In her artist statement, Marziali says "I make in order to process life as it unfolds. 'Making' is not a choice, it is engrained in me." As the Community of Making animator at Haliburton County Public Library she has been busy inspiring young and old to take advantage of its vast resources. Marziali works in leather, wood and paint but has recently begun to explore how traditional craft/art can co-exist with digitally driven construction, processes and new materials.

With a growing exhibition record that began just over a year ago, Sophie Creelman has exhibited outside Haliburton County almost as much as in. Her biggest break so far came this year when she was given a booth at The Artist Project. "I thought, why not apply?" Her confidence paid off! Creelman's acrylics are meditations on the bustling world we are surrounded by. She, at turns, paints highly detailed cityscapes and delicate abstractions. For Making It she created three new pieces, each 36" x 36", spring bouquets that mark an end to winter; a beginning perhaps?

Tiffany Howe explores the relationship between all things, inanimate and living, in her latest mixed media series "Tapestry." Tiffany has a decade of local shows under her belt and has been on Haliburton County Studio Tour since 2012. The "modern rustic" feel of her work is achieved by layering paint-saturated natural materials and recycled denim jeans, which she embellishes with small objects, clay and papier mache. Our eyes crawl over twigs and between seams awakened by the desire to feel what we should not touch.

What interests me most about these three women is their commitment to purpose – to living creatively and to making their art. It is a quality I admire, and it is a strength they will draw on again and again throughout their artistic careers. Have no fear, art is alive and well at Rails End this spring thanks to Creelman, Howe and Marziali. Don't miss Making It, March 31 until May 20 in the Main Gallery at Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre. Meet the artists at the opening reception Saturday, March 31 from 3 until 5 p.m. All welcome.

Tiffany Howe, from Tapestry Series, mixed media, 8x6.

www.railsendgallery.com Follow "Making It" on Instagram #makingit #railsendgallery

Laurie Jones is the curator of The Rails End Gallery.

Belinda Gallagher sent in this photo of a mink on the hunt in her backyard.

Praise for pigeons

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3. Two words: Cool walk.
4. They're the only reason the word squab still exists
5. Suddenly, geese don't seem so plentiful.
6. They add an urban feel to Main Street.
7. At least they don't honk at 6 a.m.
8. Nothing funnier than a pigeon landing on ice.
9. You just know this is the only coo we're ever going to have in Canada.
10. Every time you see them, you can't help but sing, "Bird on a wire."

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

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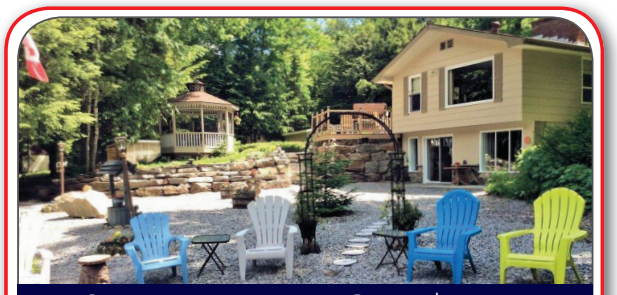

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Council backs stricter controls

Minden pedestrians may soon have the sidewalks to themselves.

At their meeting last Thursday, Anson, Hindon and Minden Council decided to strengthen the municipal bylaw restricting snowmobiles from village sidewalks.

For years, snowmobilers have been entering Minden to cross the Gull River on the Main Street bridge and to buy gas at the Texaco Station on South Water Street. But recently, council heard, they have become a nuisance and a hazard to village residents by riding on the sidewalks instead of the streets.

"When the snowmobiles hit that sidewalk outside my business, it's like a gun going off," Gord Monk, owner of the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home, told council.

Monk, along with Haliburton County Snowmobile Association president Leroy Lichty, had been invited to the meeting to discuss the snowmobile problem.

Monk said that signs he had placed outside his doors directing snowmobilers not to use the sidewalk were frequently ignored.

And he explained that on one occasion he had to ask a group of snowmobilers not to leave their machines in his parking lot because a funeral was going on. "They took their snowmobiles out front with the engines going," he said. "When I went out again and told them they were disturbing the service, one of them - a lady of about 45 - said 'so what?'".

Councillor Vern Graham described a similar incident in which a snowmobiler told him to "get out of the way" as he shovelled snow from the sidewalk in front of his house.

Asked for his opinion on the problem, Leroy Lichty said that though he didn't support the wrongdoers in the HCSA, he had no way of forcing members to abide by Minden bylaws.

He suggested that one solution to the problem might be to build a bridge for snowmobilers outside of the village, enabling them to avoid the Main Street bridge.

Reeve Sinc Nesbitt said he didn't, "forsee the municiplaity having enough money to build a new bridge." Later in the meeting however, roads superintendent Clayton Cameron showed council photographs of an inexpensive prefabricated bridge that would serve the purpose.

Lichty explained that snowmobilers often use the sidewalks to stay out of the way of road traffic which, he said, is a very real danger to them.

Asked if he had tried to negotiate another route for snowmobilers into the village that would avoid the most heavily used streets, Lichty said he hadn't. Council then suggested some alternate routes for the main HCSA trail through Minden.

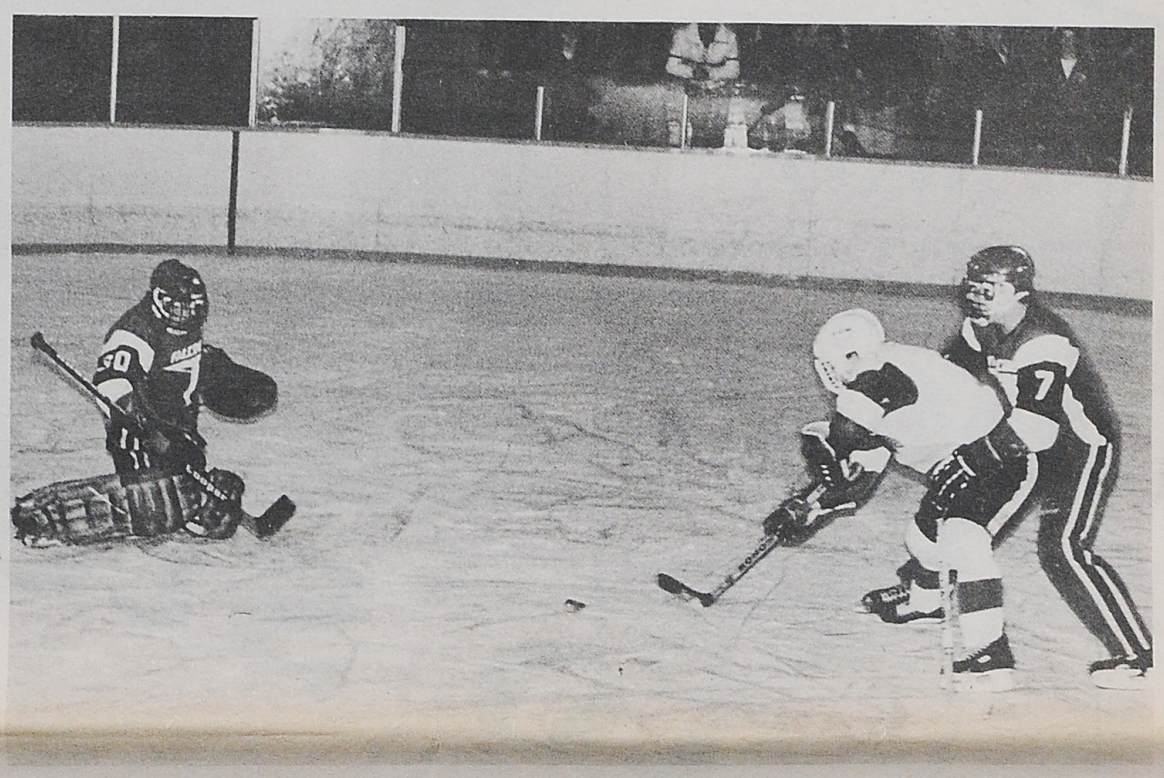
Deputy-reeve Bern Berry proposed that one solution might be for the HCSA to publish in their newsletter the Minden bylaw against snowmobiles on the sidewalks. Lichty admitted that though this had not yet been done, it could be.

It was Berry also who suggested that the present bylaw - enacted in the 1960's be strengthened.

"If the snowmobilers aren't taking any notice of the law, then let's put some teeth into it," he said.

Corporal Steve Adam of the Minden OPP was also at the meeting. He explained that present provincial laws regarding snowmobilers on roads are vague and difficult to enforce and even appear, at times, to be in conflict with municipal bylaws. However, he also said that a stronger bylaw could solve the problem.

One bylaw now popular among some municipalities enables residents to report the licence numbers of law-breaking snowmobiles to the local OPP, Adam said. Confrontations don't result, he explained because the rider isn't stopped. Nevertheless, if the law has been broken, the snowmobiler can be charged.



Fenelon Falls goalie goes to his knees to protect his net as a HHSS Redman attempts to shake a Falcon defender during Friday's game at the Haliburton arena. The Redmen went on to defeat the visitors 2-1 and advanced to the All-Ontario High School championships to be played next week in North Bay.

Stanhope council hopes compromise will solve property dispute

A spring in Stanhope Township that has been used by the public for the last 70 years but owned privately could soon become public property.

Recently, Larry Vanlieshout, who owns the land on which the spring is located at the southeast end of Maple Lake, applied to sever the property. Four lots were to be created, three of about seven acres each and one large one of approximately 60 acres.

In exchange for the severance, Stanhope Council requested that Vanlieshout deed to the township the seven-acre lot on which the spring is located.

At the March 11 meeting, council agreed to include in the deal, a small parcel of township land which would be deeded to Vanlieshout in exchange for the lot with the spring.

Vanlieshout agreed to consider the deal. If he accepts, the township will pass the severance. However, Vanlieshout pointed out that there could be a problem.

Recently a petition was circulated by county residents protesting the severance. The authors believed apparently that the severance would result in the spring being cut off from the public.

Both council and Vanlieshout are adamant that this is not the case; if the severance goes through they have agreed the spring will become public property.

Vanlieshout said in an interview on Tuesday that the petition against his severance has now gone to the Ontario Municipal Board, which has called a hearing over the matter scheduled for June, 1987.

He said he has already spent a lot of money on legal fees over the severance. He's not going to pay more over his defence to the OMB, he said, and he won't protest if he loses.

But he said he's frustrated now and should the OMB decide against him in June, he'll put a fence around the spring and post the land with 'No Trespassing' signs.

Day care centre objections

The official opening isn't until March 30, but already Haliburton County's only licenced day care centre has run into problems.

At the Anson, Hindon and Minden council meeting last Thursday, Edna Trumbull, a Minen resident, protested that the CHACE centre - to be located beside her home on Prince Street - will cause the value of her own property to drop.

Trumbull argued that she and other residents of the neighbourhood should have been notified by the municipality before CHACE was given permission to turn their rented house into a day care centre. She said that as a business, the centre required a change in the zoning of the property before it could be operated legally and in all cases of zoning change affected property owners must be given the opportunity to protest.

Also at the meeting were a number of Trumbull's neighbours who objected to the planned day care centre.

"I couldn't sell my home tomorrow with a house full of 22 kids" - the maximum capacity of the centre when renovations are completed - "on my door step," Trumbull said. She added that the property on which the centre is situated abuts her own for 150 feet.

She only discovered the existence of the centre, she said, when she saw notices in local newspapers announcing the March 30 opening.

The present zoning bylaw, enacted in 1967, prohibits use of the land for anything but houses, churches,

(more on page 3)

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Families packed the Haliburton Fish Hatchery for the popular Reptile Road Show.

Snappers and snakes

Children line up for a chance to hold corn snakes during the Reptiles Road Show at the Haliburton Fish Hatchery on March 17. Hosted by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, the event teaches children about threats to local reptile species and gives them a chance to get up close with some critters./CHAD INGRAM Staff

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Presentation on 'raising awesome kids' coming up

The HHSS School Council is inviting parents and the community to enjoy an informative and entertaining evening entitled "Raising Awesome Kids." The presentation is at HHSS on Thursday April 5 at 7 p.m. in the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The speaker is renowned social worker, Mr. Gary Direnfeld, considered an expert in his field. He hosts his own TV reality show Newly Wed, Nearly Dead and is a parenting columnist for the Hamilton Spectator as well as the author of *Marriage Rescue: Overcoming the Ten Deadly Sins of Failing Relationships*. He promises to be an enlightened and entertaining speaker and a portion of the evening will be open for parent questions. The HHSS School Council is thrilled to offer the community the opportunity to enjoy his presentation. More information is on the HHSS website. All are welcome.

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Website collects stories of Highlands' past

Carol Moffatt wants to flesh out the past of Algonquin Highlands. Behind the photographs, birth and death announcements are the details that bring the past to life and that's what the long-time history buff hopes comes of the new online heritage map and family tree project.

"We can look up records and we can look up newspaper articles and we can see the tangible pieces of history in photographs or council records," said Moffatt. "We want to build the personalities around the paper. That's why the conversations are so important."

In the basement of the Stanhope library branch March 7, a group came together for Bring An Ancestor Day, armed with photographs, maps and stories that will be fed into Algonquin Highlands' new websites.

Mabel Brannigan, 94, had a Ziploc bag filled with photos from her childhood to be scanned and processed. As she chatted with a volunteer, information was recorded, which could provide the kind of details Moffatt said are so important.

The websites are being built in a similar fashion to the Highlands East settler project, using the same company and coordinated by Adele Espina.

The Algonquin Highlands project, which began in May of last year, is funded through a $25,000 New Horizons for Seniors grant. Espina's work officially wraps up at the end of this month, but she will continue work on it as a volunteer.

The expectation is that the websites will grow continually with new artifacts, photographs and stories added whenever they're found. The structure allows visitors to the website to either browse an interactive map or search for specific people or places. A wide range of media can be incorporated, including audio or video.

"Like the Highlands East project, we're hoping the community will get on board. We're starting [with] the settlers. It will keep snowballing and growing," Moffatt said.

see page 11

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Quotes must be received by March 30, 2018 by 5:30 pm

from page 10

There are parameters to who is included.

"Anybody born in 1921 or earlier, their information is already a matter of public record," explained Espina. "They can be on the family tree. Anybody who's passed away can be on the family tree. We don't put living people on either the family tree website or the heritage map website."

The website will include the names of settlers' parents, but will not document further back than that, since tracking each family tree beyond country of origin could become unwieldy. They also will not be tracking families after they move away from the community.

However, Moffatt and Espina noted that there are likely many people who live far from the Highlands who have snippets of information about ancestors that could be of use.

"What would happen 100 years ago is with photographs, for example, people would send their photographs, photographs of their family to faraway relatives. So we may discover some photographs of our settlers are with descendants of a nephew or something in one of the American states," Espina said. "We've got photographs in our collection from people whose families ... left in the 1880s and sent photographs back. Those are the kind of things we're going to put online so people from away can see."

For those who do not have high-speed internet access or who are not comfortable with sending information online, volunteers can assist in capturing stories for the websites.

"Contact us through the website and Adele and the group will arrange for someone to go and interview them. We'll get your information. We'll happily help preserve your family's history for posterity," said Moffatt.

The website is already populated with settlers' stories and photographs of people and places, particularly in the Stanhope region of Algonquin Highlands.

For example, a particularly colourful write-up is included with the entry for James Guinn, who immigrated to Canada from Ireland in 1870.

"Famous peddler and salesman Reuben 'old sweet lips' Haight told the story that there was a steep hill that plagued travellers on the township road near Guinn's house," the passage reads. "To bypass it, the Stanhope Council, headed by Reeve Joseph Beatty, made a deal for the right of way to cross Guinn's property for $25. Jim then removed his fence and waited for payment; when none came the fence went back up. Guinn said that Reeve Joseph 'Old Curmudgeon' Beatty, Councillor William 'Wormy' Cooper and Councillor 'Limpy' Mason could climb the hill. Shortly thereafter Jim received his $25 and the fence was taken down. (Source: Shirley Warder as told to Joyce Gibson)."

And there's plenty more like it.

Moffatt said part of the thrill of genealogy is creating a more fulsome picture of who people were and what their lives entailed.

"One of the most interesting things that I ever learned … is that [early settler] Thomas Mason kept chickens as pets," she said. "I read it in something and then suddenly all the photographs we had … with him sitting in chairs with chickens in his lap made sense."

Using the same software to put together the Algonquin Highlands information as that of Highlands East means if the municipalities desire at a later date, the websites could be combined into one. "I think our pie in the sky hope would be that Minden Hills and Dysart would apply for this funding next and next. And then wouldn't it be great to have a map of Haliburton County that had this number of pins on it and all this incredible information," Moffatt said.

To check out the family tree and heritage map websites, go to https://heritagemapsalgonquin.com (for the map) or https://algonquinhighlands.ca/genealogy/ (for the family tree).

-Jenn Watt, County Life Editor

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Highland Hills and Haliburton United Churches
"Come and Mourn with Me Awhile"
When: Friday, March 30
9 a.m. at Zion United in Carnarvon
11:15 a.m. at Haliburton United in Haliburton
A meditative Good Friday service of scripture, anthems and hymns.
Featuring the combined choirs of Highland Hills and Haliburton United Churches under the direction of Melissa Stephens.
All are welcome.

Minden Legion presents Gord Kidd & Friend, Ian Pay

When: Saturday, April 7, 2 to 5 p.m.
Where: Minden Legion
Lunch available to purchase from 12 to 2 p.m.
Meat Draw at 1 p.m.

Lochlin Community Center - Spaghetti Dinner

When: Saturday April 7/18
Where: 4713 Gelert Road
Adults: $12.00, kids 12 & under: $6.00, Children under 4 Free
Seatings available for 4:45 or 6:00 dinner
For reservations call Nancy at 705-286-3339
Take out available

Haliburton: Sexual Health Clinic

Wednesday, April 11, 10:30 am to 12:30 p.m.
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 2205.

Minden Animal Hospital 4th annual Customer Appreciation Day

When: Saturday, April 14 from 1 to 3 p.m.
A great way to meet the staff and tour the hospital. Refreshments, cake and some events are planned. Look forward to seeing you there!

Haliburton: Food Handler Course

When: Tuesday, April 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Health Unit office (191 Highland St., Unit 301) in Haliburton.
This course teaches participants how to handle and prepare food safely. Upon successful completion, participants receive a certificate (valid for a period of five years) indicating they are registered as a certified food handler. Cost is $40 per person. For more information and to confirm space availability, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577.

Haliburton: Sexual Health Clinic

When: Wednesday, April 25, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 2205.

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Legion Events

Branch 636, Minden

Monday – Thursday Lunch 12 to 2 p.m.
Tuesday Special liver day, regular menu also.
Friday 12 to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m., Fish, Chicken Wings, Fries and Onion Rings.
Daily events:
Monday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Haliburton Highlands Rug Hookers. (every two weeks)
Tuesday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Senior art group. 1:00-4:00, Bid Euchre,
Wednesday 12:00- Meat Draws, 4 butcher quality meats for $1.00 a ticket. 1 to 4 p.m., Ladies Darts, 5 to 7 p.m. Calorie Counters.
Thursday 7 p.m. Darts. 7 p.m. Euchre
Friday Every second week, Karaoke with Fred and Linda, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Saturday Special Lunch every week with meat Draw at 1 p.m.
Sunday Sports Day 12 to 4:30 p.m.

Branch 624, Wilberforce

Friday Pool 1:30 p.m. Everyone welcome
Ham & Scalloped dinner 5 to 7 p.m.
Saturday Meat draw 2 p.m. - Early bird 3 p.m. sharp
Sunday Youth league tea 1 - 4 p.m.
Monday Bid Euchre 7 p.m. Beginners welcome
Tuesday Executive meeting 7 p.m.
Wednesday Fun Darts 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome
We would like to look into getting a grant to rebuild the kitchen. Need people who would like to be a part of the process. Please contact the legion if interested. 705-448-2221.
Travelling this winter get your travel insurance through your membership.

Branch 129, Haliburton

Dave Allen, PRO 705-457-2571

Mondays:	Bridge every Monday at 1p.m.
Tuesdays:	Tuesday Night Dart League starting at 7p.m.
Wednesdays:	Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start Bingo Doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. - $500 Jackpot, $1000 Jackpot - last Wednesday of the month.
Thursdays:	General Meeting third Thursday of the month starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays:	Cribbage 1 p.m. start, Meat Draw Five Draws, Five Prizes each draw, First draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw - 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Chester Howse, MC Friday fun darts - 4:30 p.m. onwards
Saturdays:	50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw, Tickets are $1 each from noon onwards
Sundays:	Breakfast Second and fourth Sunday of the month – 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. $6 per person. Occasional volunteers are needed.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at **(705) 457- 2571**, email **rcl129@bellnet.ca** or visit **haliburtonlegion.com** Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129, everyone is welcome!

Haliburton (705) 457–2128
Minden (705) 286–2138
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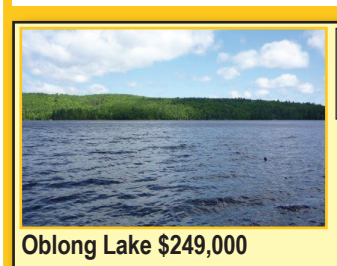
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The Writers' Circle

A monthly feature of local creative writers' work

The March break adventure

Well, it's done. Gone again for another year. March Break is over and I am still recuperating. No, I was not one of those lucky ones who were able to travel to an "away" vacation, but two of my grandchildren were.

Olivia and Owen, ages nine and seven, arrived at our home, in the town of Haliburton on the Saturday evening along with their newest member of the family, Hank, the one-year-old golden doodle dog. With big smiles and hugs, the kids unloaded their gear, which included sleds, games, books, magic markers, and colouring books. They also dumped out a load of Scooby-Doo movies. Their favourite movies became our favourite "chill-time" saviours.

As the parents waved goodbye on Sunday, heading back to the town of Newcastle, Ontario, their smiles indicated a new-found freedom for a period of five days. I, on the other hand, pulled out my list of planned activities for the week including the menu plan to see if it met their approval.

The first thing that I was extremely thankful for was the snow covered ground, which probably had about six inches and the forecast was looking good for a couple of days with a further blanket of snow. The kids were thrilled with the fact that they could go tobogganing down the big hill over near our local museum. That was my husband's job. I stayed back to trek along our trails at the back of our property with Hank the dog. He loved every minute and I think he was actually smiling.

The one thing that my grandchildren really love is craft time. Every year I try to come up with different ideas to keep it exciting. This year we decided to make Easter sock bunnies. So off to Stedman's for supplies where we gathered up some socks and ribbon. Then we travelled across the road to Foodland to purchase bags of rice for the stuffing. A permanent magic marker already in my craft box sufficed for drawing the eyes and mouth.

Well, by the next day both of them had completed this first craft and on my counter sat 12 of these sock bunnies! "What can we do now?" they asked.

The next thing that I was very thankful for were the programs available at our local library in Haliburton. Every year I run into the library about a week in advance prior to March break to grab a copy of the events calendar. This year I noticed an afternoon craft time on different days for older children. My grandchildren were in that category.

So I showed Olivia and Owen the library calendar and they were really excited. Their first craft they wanted to try were the ''galaxy jars." So off we went to the program and the grand-kids loved it. There were ample supplies and a lot of variety to choose from. The instructions were printed out in large print but the instructor took them through each step. She had patience and gave constant positive re-enforcement. There was patience through the use of food colouring. I cringed at the thought of food colouring in my kitchen especially if it dropped on the floor.

The next craft on a different day, was the "Monster Glove." Small little gloves you could stuff with lots of cotton. Their imagination began to flow with all the options to decorate with markers, pipe cleaners, sequins, etc. And when it came time to stitch together the second craft of that day, a felt bunny, a very large craft needle was supplied along with the thread and if one of them made a mistake in stitching, the teacher pointed out that this was a very different creative way to sew! I was impressed.

Haliburton has so many different programs out there for kids during the March break and it's always nice to support our local stores too.

So, anyone looking for something to do with the kids on their time off from school, one of my choices is the local library. Check it out next time. There are so many different little programs for them and they are all free! Maybe you can't leave the kids and take off to do errands but I am sure you could grab a coffee and sit around the corner of the room and do some reading. I hope in the future that people will take advantage of this.

I know that next year when my grandchildren arrive for their next adventure, I will have a copy of the March calendar from the local library.

By Jo-Ann Sloan

Spring of hope

We await the arrival of spring with anticipation of good things coming. I watch the early morning sun glow golden on the white birch trees. Perhaps this is why I'm so fond of birch trees. It's the light that is reflected off their bark, as if it were a sheet of stark white paper, making everything brighter. The winter snow does the same, allowing me to see well into the distance at night.

Nature comes alive with new growth, buds on the trees start off purple, turn to green, then burst open to reveal more purple and greens this time as feather-like images become leaves that sprout and unfold in the warmth of the sun.

I sit in my rocking chair on the veranda bundled in my winter parka, facing the setting sun, dreaming about my yard coming alive soon. I see myself plant another crab apple tree, since my old crab apple tree has become a home for bugs. I take joy in growing the harvest that finds its way to our dinner table. To me food is love, grown with love, to

see page 15

Those Other movies
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2018 Municipal Election

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR COUNCIL?

INFORMATION SESSION

The Municipalities of Dysart et al, and Highlands East and the Township's of Algonquin Highlands and Minden Hills will be hosting a joint information session for citizens interested in running as a candidate for municipal office.

The Candidate Information Session will take place on **Thursday, April 26, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Haliburton Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 located at 719 Mountain Street, Haliburton ON.**

Representatives from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs will be facilitating the session and will cover a range of topics including nomination process, election process, what to expect if elected, and roles and responsibilities.

Nominations to run for Council commences on May 1, 2018, with Nomination Day on July 27, 2018. The Municipal Election will be held on October 22, 2018.

Advance registration for the session is encouraged by emailing Deanna Smith at dsmith@mindenhills.ca or calling 705-286-1260 ext. 212 by April 16, 2018.

ATTENTION EVENT ORGANIZERS
Be sure you get your festival, corn roast, regatta, art show, concert, truck pull or other summer favourite into the
Haliburton Highlands Summer Guide!
Email haliburtonsummerguide@gmail.com
by May 1
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Listings are free!

The Writers' Circle

A monthly feature of local creative writers' work

from page 14

nourish my family.

The breeze is cold on my face. A reminder we are still in winter. I dream of the warmth of a summer's breeze on my face, late evenings outside in the warm air, the smell and snapping sounds of campfires, hearing the distant laughter of people celebrating everyday life surrounded by the beauty all around us.

For now the ground is frozen, covered by snow as far as my eyes can see. Silence. I long for spring when the world becomes alive again.

Laura Mount is a member of the Algonquin Highlands Writers' Circle, a resonance writers group.

Sparks In The Dark

Waking slowly into cold silence
The wind at the window
Announcing there's no hydro.
Searching the dark for a flashlight
Imagining daytime distances to its whereabouts
That don't work now.
I find it by knocking it down
Hear it roll under the bed.
Then me squished under the bed, reaching.
Finally, moving step by step
Down the creaking wooden stairs
Following the dim beam of light.
I try the bathroom switch
A loud bang and sparks
I hear someone yell
It must be me.
More sparks in the kitchen
The landline is dead
The cell phone never works
Not where I live.
Grope for matches, candles
Tell my trembling dog we're fine
Not sure that's the correct belief
As I light the fire
And a string of lights mysteriously come to life
Shining and twinkling like never before.
The refrigerator, ominous in its huge whiteness
Keeps stopping, starting and sparking.
I touch nothing now
Except the logs and the poker,
Move a chair closer to the fire,
Breathe into the space between me and flames.
A foreign current is in my chest
Altering my heartbeat.
Is this a heart attack?
Or some kind of mutation
Caused by electrical forces?
Preparation for a new paradigm
Six kilometres from Minden?
"Beam me up Scottie."

Linda McNamara

Musings on shovelling snow

When does one cross the line between careful attention to detail as in the zen tradition and obsessive compulsive behaviour?

I pondered this question one early morning in February. I was at the cottage. It was balmy. I was out on the porch with the urge to shovel the snow off the cottage porch. I picked up my regular large rubber snow shovel with the curved shaft that made the job of shovelling easier on the body.

I had a rude awakening. "Wow, this snow is heavy, full of water, not like the light fluffy stuff I shovelled with ease last time." I recalled how many words for snow are in the Inuit vocabulary. I recalled my recent 70th birthday and my recent "bursa" injury to my left leg and I even recalled my girlfriend's father-in-law who died of a massive heart attack many years ago shovelling snow off his driveway.

I put down my large rubber snow shovel and exchanged it for a small metal one. I wanted to clear some of the snow/ice because the porch would be safer for walking and because it felt good to shovel. I didn't lift any snow/ice. I put a small amount on the shovel and pushed it to the edge of the porch and when I gathered several portions I was able to push them over the edge with ease. I did that for about an hour. I put away my shovel. I left a lot of snow/ice on the porch. It was not a neat, tidy job.

If you have a strong urge to begin shovelling and then not stop until all the snow is cleared, you may want to check your urge and ask when does it cross the line between careful attention to detail as in the zen tradition and obsessive compulsive behaviour that could possibly injure you or even kill you.

I don't know about you, but I'm no Tenzin. Who is Tenzin you may ask? He's the ex Tibetan monk who is a groundskeeper at a convent I frequent. Once, after a big snowstorm, I arrived at the convent to find that all the snow had been miraculously cleared from the driveway and parking areas. "Do you have a snowplow?" I asked Don, the supervisor of maintenance at the convent. "No. I have Tenzin." Tenzin's intense training over the years as a monk can allow him to shovel "miraculously" using the power of his breath.

Barbara Rosen is a member of the Algonquin Highlands Writers' Circle, a resonance writers group.

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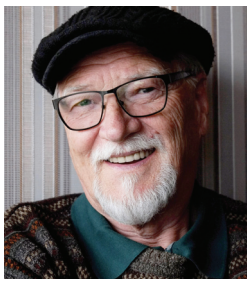
Artists Centre students show their stuff



GEORGE FARRELL
On Arts

Carole Finn, who owns the Carole Finn Artists Centre and gallery on Newcastle Street in Minden had an exhibition opening on March 19 featuring the works of 10 students from her winter painting classes. I like openings, but I did not attend because openings are not the best of times to actually peruse the works uninterrupted.

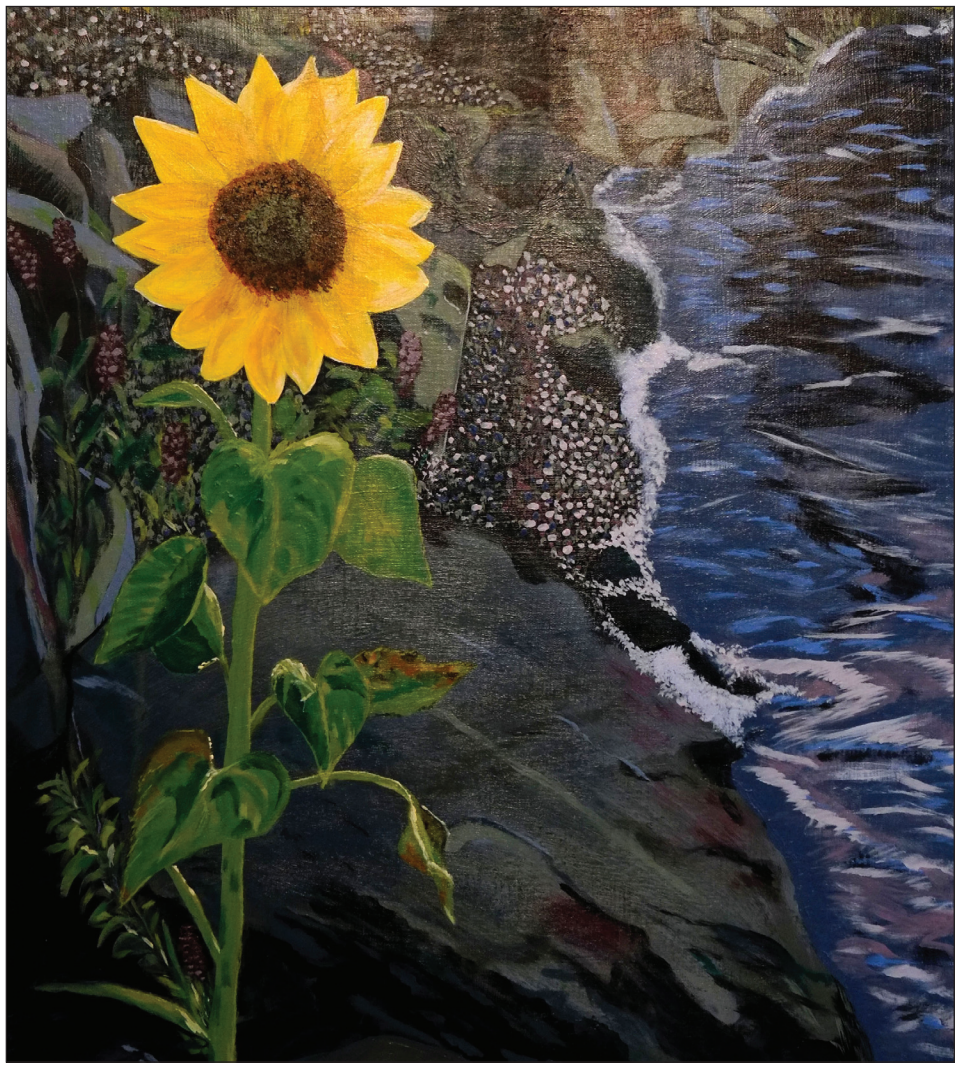
So I went on the following Wednesday, unannounced, and had both Carole and the gallery to myself. The exhibition of acrylics is called "Do you see what I see?" and it's meant to showcase the individual artist's particular way of painting. Finn teaches them the basics such as the values of light and shade, colour and composition, but she leaves her students to apply paint in their own manner.

I really didn't know what to expect, when I entered the little gallery but Finn quickly pointed out that for many of the students this was their first time at showing their paintings. Each one worked from a photograph they took themselves, and the subject matter included a cat, landscapes, flowers, fish huts, a seagull and a little person hugging a tree. What struck me immediately was the raw naivety of much of the work. These were obviously, with a couple of exceptions, artists who were still new to their craft. However there was such a charming innocence to many of the pieces that I was captivated; and it put a smile on my face.

Deborah J. Reed, who usually works in water colours is, according to Carol, the most experienced artist, and her technique showed clearly through, with her colourful and graphic rendition of fishing huts on an icy lake. Reed who also painted the tree hugging image and the seagull, joined fellow Century 21 agents Susanne James, Melanie Vigrass, and Dagmar Boettcher as exhibitors. James' watery landscape Nunikani I liked, and it shows her understanding of the play of light on water; and Dagmar Boettcher's painting of a massive red cliff was very impressive for a first painting.

First paintings were also on display from Karena Crofts with Olivia, a cat with a disability; Nancy Gosse, who did an enigmatic sunflower perched high on a shoreline cliff; and Holly Hutchison, who depicted a wild, slightly abstract, Saskatchewan Sky. Christine Wooder's offering was an image called Burnt River and it showed

see page 17



Sunflowers by Nancy Gosse

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from page 16

a great flair for the dramatic, with a menacing sky and eerie dead trees along the waterway. Beth Cook chose a difficult subject for her very first painting; an old shed in a field, but she pulled it off admirably.

Which brings me to Dianne McCarthy who I saved to last because perhaps she, along with Reed, exhibits a style which seems most developed. Ice Out abstractly suggests early spring with an image of milkweed husks set against an icy background, which could be either sky, water, or both. Her other piece Hydrangeas similarly displays an early mastery of a fluid brush. My favourite? I chose Gosse's Sunflowers, though I suspect that on subsequent visits to the gallery I would come away with a different favourite each time.

Carole is justifiably proud of her students, and she's agreed to extend the show until April 7. So, if you have an urge to paint, take in this exhibition. It will give you plenty of impetus to grab a brush and put paint to canvas. Finn's next set of classes start on June 4 and you can register online at Carolefinnartist.com/onlinestore or phone 705-457-2404.

Class members, in no particular order, Holly Hutchison, Dagmar Boettcher, Christine Wooder, Carole Finn (third from right), Dianne McCarthy, Deborah J. Reed, Susanne James, Karena Crofts, Nancy Gosse. (Missing: Melanie Vigrass, Beth Cook.) / Submitted

Paintings from the winter painting module at the Finn Artists Center included beginners to experienced artists. The show is open each day from 1 to 4 p.m. at 15 Newcastle St. in Minden until April 7. /Submitted

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Let people know about your event. Send it in to our FREE community events listing in the Haliburton Echo, Minden Times and County Life. Email the basics to Pat Lewis: classifieds@haliburtonpress.com or call us at 705-457-1037.

Francis THOMAS CONTRACTING Since 1934 Serving Haliburton Highlands

Equipment Operator

Francis Thomas Contracting, serving Haliburton County for over 80 years is looking for Equipment Operator

- Full time permanent position
- Medical benefit and pension opportunities
- Outdoor construction
- Working in the Haliburton County area, based out of Carnarvon
- Monday to Friday work schedule
- Starts spring 2018
- High school diploma an asset but not required
- Minimum 3 yrs. experience operating construction equipment
- Valid G driver's license required
- Candidates must be physically fit for outdoor work
- Strong communication skills an asset

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Fax 705-489-1887
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Labour Position

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- Outdoor construction
- Working in the Haliburton County area, based out of Carnarvon
- Training provided
- Monday to Friday work schedule
- Starts immediately
- High school diploma an asset but not required
- Candidates must be over 18 years old and hold valid G2 driver's license
- Candidates must be physically fit for outdoor work
- Knowledge of power equipment an asset

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Kennisis, West Shore Road

Located in a deep quiet cove with over 410 ft of frtg on 1.5 ac - privacy is prime! Fantastic landscaping & gardens to clean deep rock shoreline & huge sitting deck & dock. 2 stry majesty open to great room & floor to ceiling windows & stone woodburning fp. Quality finishings & features. Screened Haliburton Room, dbl det garage, 4BR/4baths.

$1,375,000

Soyers Lake

Stunning Timberframe 4 bdrm waterfront cottage/home on Soyers Lake. Quality finishing inside & out. Oversized insulated double det'd garage. Enjoy peace & quiet in this tranquil bay w/ little boat traffic & easy access to the 5 lk chain.

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Soyers Lake

Warm welcoming home or cottage with beautiful Timberframe architecture on 2.5 acres. Cavernous ceilings, charming loft getaway, beautiful 3 season sunroom with fantastic view. Hickory floors, soaring wood fireplace, central dining and kitchen with huge island is a must see. Double garage, decks & patios, the best finishings and features. Majestic pines and landscaping make this property a showpiece.

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Kennisis Lake, Elmhurst Lane

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